

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05370 151256Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01

DHA-02 /073 W

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R 151222Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9114

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEURMMXVMMM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI SY JO PLO

SUBJ: PLA COMMANDER BUDAYRI CHARGED WITH REORGANIZING PLA UNITS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN

1. RELIABLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE CLOSE TO PNC CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM TOLD US HE HAD LEARNED FROM FAHUM THAT PLA COMMANDER MISBAH BUDAYRI HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO REORGANIZE PLA UNITS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN. FAHUM ADDED THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN PAID SALARIES OF PLA TROOPS LAST MONTH (IMPLICATION WAS THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES UNDERTAKING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH PLO HAS PERMITTED TO LAPSE).

2. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT BUDAYRI HIMSELF GIVES FULL CREDIT TO PRES ASAD FOR RESCUING HIM FROM PLO CAPTIVITY. BUDAYRI CLAIMS FATAH CAPTORS HAD DECIDED TO EXECUTE HIM AND WOULD HAVE DONE SO HAD NOT ASAD INTERVENED, THREATENED TO KILL FATAH'S TOP LEADERSHIP "ONE BY ONE BEGINNING WITH ARAFAT, EVEN IF WE MUST TRACK THEM DOWN
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05370 151256Z

ON STREETS OF NEW YORK."

3. COMMENT: PRES ASAD SEEMS TO PUT GREAT STOCK IN
BUDAYRI'S POLITICAL RELIABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS AS
PLA COMMANDER. ASAD APPARENTLY OBTAINED KING HUSSEIN'S
CONSENT TO REORGANIZE PLA INTO FIGHTING FORCE MORE
RESPONSIVE TO DAMASCUS AND AMMAN THAN PLO
COMMAND NOW IN LEBANON. PRESUMABLY, REORGANIZATION WILL
INCLUDE PURGE OF THOSE OFFICERS CONSIDERED LOYAL TO
PLO ELEMENTS OPPOSING SYRIA.
MURPHY

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NNN

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